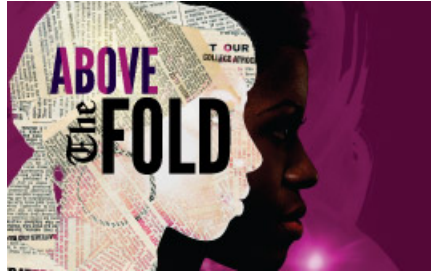


ABOVE THE FOLD
By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



There is a new play at the Pasadena Playhouse that will certainly challenge your ideas of bias, prejudice and injustice. *Above the Fold* is a morality tale set in a college town in the South. The story involves a rape victim, her college student assailants, a local politician and a newspaper reporter. Are you interested yet?

When I walked into the theater I had no idea what to expect, and was both moved and surprised by how a very difficult subject was handled. Perception, truth and reality are all tested in *Above the Fold*. How we view any situation is always through the lenses of our own experience and expectations. However, we also tend to rely on the reports of others to confirm or refute information we believe. The police, the media and witnesses are all subject to the scrutiny of the truth, whatever that might be. But what price are we willing to pay for the truth?

Reality and truth is not always the same thing. Your reality is based on who you are, where you have been and where you want to be. The truth is something that does not change and cannot be altered by perception. It is fact and fact alone. We create our own reality usually separate and apart from the truth. Taraji P. Henson shines brilliantly in the role of the ambitious reporter whose commitment for getting the story straight drives the drama. For those of us who are fans of *Person of Interest*, seeing Henson again was a special treat. Henson does well in roles that embody internal conflict and doing the wrong thing for the right reason. (Long live, detective Carter.)

The rest of the cast is excellent. Kristi Johnson as the assault victim and Arye Gross as the newspaper editor are perfect in their roles. The production and set really challenges us to think carefully about what we choose to believe and how much we bring into any situation. It also reminds us that we are all victims of our own self interests. I used to believe in truth in journalism, but now I believe that the truth is reserved for the video recording. Even then, no one will agree on what they see. In *Above the Fold*, what they see is what we see. But in the end, it is what it is and it was what it was, but what does that change in the end? See for yourself at the Pasadena Playhouse.

If you enjoy live theater, this is a good one and the Pasadena Playhouse needs your support. Check on the discount websites to see if there are any tickets available, but *Above the Fold* is worth seeing.

I give *Above the Fold* five playhouses. See it soon.

